

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:KNROGERS:MMG/LAS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205744

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MASS, US, UY

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR LUISI CALLS ON ASST. SEC. KUBISCH

1. ON OCTOBER 15, URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR HECTOR LUISI CALLED ON ASST. SEC. KUBISCH AT THE DEPARTMENT. AMBASSADOR LUISI TOLD MR. KUBISCH THAT HIS RESIGNATION AS AMBASSADOR, NOW THREE MONTHS OLD, HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED IT BECAUSE OF HIS UNHAPPINESS OVER EVENTS IN HIS NATION DURING THE RECENT PAST, BUT THAT OF LATE HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY EFFORTS OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS TO WORK IN HARMONY TOWARD SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF HIS COUNTRY AND WOULD SERVE URUGUAY TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY SO LONG AS HE WAS AMBASSADOR.

2. AMBASSADOR LUISI SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA, AND POSSIBLE EFFECT THAT COULD HAVE ON URUGUAY, BUT THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE-URUGUAYAN ARMY HAD NOT YET BEEN ENGAGED IN EXCESSES OR-EXECUTIONS. HE SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED WITH THE
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PROGRESS OF THE PRELIMINARY TALKS ON THE MATTER OF

RESCHEDULING FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDIT ARREARAGES
HERE, AND IN THAT CONNECTION HE VISITED AMBASSADOR
ROBERT HILL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, ON OCTOBER 10.

3. AMBASSADOR LUISI TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH
THAT HE HAD INFORMED HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE USG HAD
RESPONDED TO EVENTS IN URUGUAY THESE PAST MONTHS WITH
"SAD PRAGMATISM" AND THAT HE HAD WANTED THE ACTIVIST
MILITARY LEADERS TO UNDERSTAND USG CONCERN. HE ALSO SAID
THAT HE HOPED THAT US MILITARY OFFICERS ASSIGNED IN
URUGUAY MIGHT IMPROVE CONTACTS WITH THE URUGUAYAN
MILITARY WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS NOW LACKING PARTLY DUE TO
ALOOFNESS AND UNCERTAINTY ON THE PART OF THE URUGUAYAN
MILITARY. SUCH IMPROVED CONTACTS, HE THOUGHT, MIGHT HAVE
A STABILIZING INFLUENCE.

4. IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY, HE
WONDERED IF A "GESTURE" OF UNDERSTANDING COULD BE MADE BY
THE USG. HE FIRST SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A GESTURE WOULD BE
TO CONVERT PART OF THE FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE SALES
PROGRAM TO A GRANT PROGRAM.

5. ASST. SEC. KUBISCH SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT
AMBASSADOR LUISI HAD VISITED AMBASSADOR HILL. THE ASST.
SEC. PRAISED AMBASSADOR LUISI FOR HIS PERSONAL AND
OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION IN BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN
WASHINGTON DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS. MR. KUBISCH SAID
THAT THE US HAS CHERISHED ITS FRIENDSHIP FOR URUGUAY OVER
MANY DECADES AND THAT WE HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR THAT NATION
AND ADMIRATION FOR ITS DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL
PROGRESS. MR. KUBISCH ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH WE COULD
HARDLY TAKE COMFORT FROM RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN URUGUAY,
WE HAD, OF COURSE, ACCEPTED THE REALITIES OF THE PRESENT
SITUATION.

6. THE ASST. SEC. SAID THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME
APPROPRIATE GESTURE AS AMBASSADOR LUISI HAD REQUESTED TO
BOOST THE MORALE OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE MILITARY
INTERESTS. HE ASSURED AMBASSADOR LUISI THAT ANY GOU
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PROPOSAL WOULD RECEIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE
BOUNDS OF US POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE LIMITATIONS. HOWEVER,
HE SAID, THAT DUE TO A NUMBER OF LIMITATIONS OF WHICH THE
AMBASSADOR WAS NO DOUBT AWARE THAT ENTERING INTO A
SIGNIFICANT NEW GRANT PROGRAM AT THIS JUNCTURE WAS NOT
POSSIBLE.

7. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION OF THE AMBASSADOR, MR.

KUBISCH SAID THAT A LOW PROFILE THEME FOR THE US IN THIS
HEMISPHERE WAS UNREALISTIC, BUT THAT THE USG WANTED ITS
PRESENCE TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL. MR. KUBISCH
HOPED THAT URUGUAY WOULD FIND ITS OWN SOLUTIONS TO ITS OWN
PROBLEMS AND, NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE USG WOULD NOT INTERFERE
IN ANY WAY IN URUGUAY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. KISSINGER

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